



Idaho Forest Legacy Program Call for FFY2016 Project Applications

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is receiving the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) project applications for federal fiscal year 2016. The FLP is a voluntary program that seeks to protect environmentally important forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The FLP operates on the “willing buyer, willing seller” principle, and the program assures that both traditional uses of private lands and the public benefits of America's forests are protected for future generations. The FLP provides an incentive-based mechanism to maintain working forest, protect important fish and wildlife habitat, conserve watershed functions, and maintain recreation opportunities.

In accordance with the federal Forest Legacy Program, the purpose of Idaho's Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important forest areas and the public values they provide. Within this broad context, specific goals for the program are identified below.

Goals

- Identify high priority forestlands in Idaho
- Maintain the cultural and economic stability of rural communities by conserving *working* forest landscapes
- Conserve and/or enhance water quality
- Maintain unique forest habitats
- Protect and provide habitat for native fish, wildlife and plants
- Protect the social values that forests provide such as public recreation, scenic, cultural and historical values

More information about the Forest Legacy Program can be found at:

IDL: <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-legacy/index.html>

Idaho Forest Action Plan – Resource Strategy: <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-action/index.html>

U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flp.shtml>

Landowners are encouraged to work with a land trust or conservation organization to develop their application. Project proposals are evaluated and prioritized by the Idaho Lands Resource Coordination Council using the following categories: *Importance*, *Threatened*, *Strategic*, level of *Readiness* and degree of *Support*. Qualifying applications will be forwarded to the National Review Panel for final ranking and funding consideration. Funds are awarded to successful projects two to three years after submitting the initial application.

Applicants are highly encouraged to contact Karen Sjoquist, Idaho Department of Lands, Forest Legacy Coordinator, prior to submitting an application to ensure the proposal meets State and Federal program requirements.

Application Requirements

To be considered for federal fiscal year 2016, applications must be received by **May 31, 2014** and must meet the following application requirements. IDL highly recommends that all applications be submitted in an electronic format although hard copy applications will be accepted. Strict formatting guidelines include:

- Document Length: Maximum of **20 pages** (8 ½" x 11"), one sided, excluding supporting documents (see Section E)
 - Font Size: Minimum of **10 pt**
 - Margins: Minimum of ½" on all sides
1. Project must meet one or more of Idaho's FLP goals.
 2. Project must be within an Idaho Priority Landscape Area as identified in Idaho's [Forest Action Plan](#) (FAP)-Resource Strategy.
 3. Project must be sponsored by a state agency, land trust or conservation organization.
 4. Project lands must be privately owned.
 5. Project parcels must be at least five (5) acres in size.
 6. Project must include a minimum 25% non-federal match. The FLP will fund up to 75% of total program costs (acquisition costs plus other allowable expenses). A landowner that does not meet the match percentage as stated in their application by the closing date of a Forest Legacy acquisition will not be eligible to apply for FLP funding until the non-federal match has been met.
 7. Project must be 75% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover or formally had such tree cover and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
 8. Landowners agree to follow federal FLP requirements and implementation rules including:
 - a. Accepting an appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
 - b. Managing the property by means of a Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
 - c. Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, and/or conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property.
 - d. Allowing annual monitoring for conservation easement (CE) compliance.
 9. Application must include a signed "Landowner Certification and Inspection Consent" form.

Note: although the Idaho Department of Lands cannot require a stewardship endowment, this will be an integral part of project negotiation. Idaho's stewardship endowment funds are used to cover the costs associated with future monitoring and administration of its conservation easements.

Please submit one (**1**) **full electronic copy** of the project proposal to the attention of:

Karen Sjoquist, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
E-mail: ksjoquist@idl.idaho.gov

Or:

2550 Highway 2 West
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
tel: 208-263-5104 | fax: 208-263-0724



Idaho Forest Legacy Program FFY2016 Project Application

Application should be in outline form, cover all topics listed below and be presented in the following order. This ensures that all projects are evaluated in a fair and equitable manner by the State and National review panels. Applicants are encouraged to be concise; repetition is discouraged.

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:
Address:
Phone number(s):
E-mail:

B. SPONSOR INFORMATION

Organization:
Contact:
Address:
Phone number(s):
E-mail:

C. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Priority Landscape Area ([see map](#)):
Project Name:
Project Town (nearest) and County:
Project Location: Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
Township: _____ Range: _____ Section: _____ Quarter: _____
Project Acres:
Estimated Current Land Value: \$
Estimated Conservation Easement Value: \$
Estimated Due Diligence Cost*: \$
Total Project Cost (Conservation Easement Value + Due Diligence Cost): \$
Forest Legacy Program Funding Request* (maximum 75% of total costs): \$
Non-Federal Cost-Share (minimum 25% match required)**: \$
Stewardship Endowment***: \$
*Do not include stewardship endowment
**A 50% or greater non-federal match will enhance application rating
*** Contact FLP coordinator for further information

Project Description:

This description should provide the evaluators with an overview of the project, summarizing how it meets the core criteria and ultimately, why the project should be considered for the Forest Legacy Program (do not exceed 1 page).

D. CORE CRITERIA

Importance

These criteria reflect the environmental, economic and social values conserved by the project and the scale of public interest in its protection. A project need not have all the attributes listed to receive maximum points for this category. More points will be given to projects that demonstrate multiple benefits that are broad in scale.

1. Forestry: Describe how the landowner/property demonstrates sustainable forest practices in accordance with a management plan (additional points for third party certification), contributes to the local or regional resource-based economy and demonstrates attributes to sustain a productive forest.
2. Non-Timber Economic Benefits: Describe other activities that provide economic benefit such as hunting leases, ranching, agriculture, non-timber forest products, recreation or tourism.
3. Threatened or Endangered Species: Does the site have documented occurrence or habitat for rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals?
4. Fish, Wildlife, Plants, and Unique Forest Communities: Describe the site's unique forest communities and/or important fish or wildlife habitat as documented by a formal assessment or wildlife conservation plan or strategy developed by a government or a non-governmental organization.
5. Water Supply Protection: Describe any contiguity with or direct access to riparian areas, wetlands, shorelines, river systems, sensitive watershed lands, buffer to public drinking water supply or an aquifer recharge area.
6. Public Access/Recreation: Will protection of the property maintain or establish access by the public for recreation? Describe future conditions of public use.
7. Scenic: Describe the site's scenic attributes and if it is located within a viewshed of a formally designated scenic feature or area (trail, river, or highway).
8. Historic/Cultural/Tribal: Describe formally documented historical, cultural or tribal features that are located on site.

Threatened

These criteria evaluate the likelihood of conversion from forest to non-forest uses. Describe the current and future threat of conversion and how it will result in a loss of forest values and public benefits.

1. Legal Protection: Describe the degree of legal protections or lack of, which currently exists on the property (e.g. zoning or existing easements), if these protections remove/increase the threat of conversion and to what extent.
2. Land/Landowner Circumstances: Describe any extenuating circumstances that could lead to forest conversion (e.g. property held in an estate, aging landowner and future ownership by heirs is uncertain, property is up for sale or has a sale pending, purchase offers, etc.).
3. Adjacent Land Use Changes: Examples - rate of development growth and conversion, rate of population growth, rate of change in ownership, adjacent developments, etc.
4. Ability to Develop: Describe physical attributes of the property that would facilitate conversion (e.g. access, zoning, utilities, mineral potential, etc.).

Strategic

These criteria reflect the project's relevance or relationship to conservation efforts in a broader perspective. The following considerations will be used to evaluate a project's strategic relationship to a conservation plan(s).

1. Conservation Strategy: Describe how the project fits within a designated conservation plan, strategy or initiative as developed by a government or a non-governmental organization (include the scale of the conservation plan, the project's contribution to that plan and it's placement within the area).
2. Complement Protected Lands: Describe how the project is strategically linked to other protected lands (e.g. State, Federal, or privately owned protected lands (refuges, conservation easements, etc.)).

Readiness

These criteria evaluate the degree of due diligence completed and reflect a landowner's commitment to completing the Forest Legacy project in a timely manner. Specify completed items and include date of completion. Credit will only be given for completed items.

1. Cost estimate (e.g. completed market analysis or preliminary appraisal)
2. Draft conservation easement
3. Cost share commitment (source(s) and amount(s) of non-federal match)
4. Signed option or purchase and sales agreement
5. Completed title search
6. Completed minerals determination
7. Completed Forest Stewardship Plan
8. Stewardship Endowment commitment (source(s) and amount(s))

Support

Provide a brief list here of supporting parties. Support is encouraged from any combination of individuals or organizations, although support from federal, state or local elected officials, government agencies, tribal entities and land-trust/conservation organizations are highly encouraged. Letters of support should be provided in your supporting documentation (Section E).

E. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (formatting requirements do not apply)

1. Cover Page
2. Maps – state and local scales
3. Photographs – aerial, property photos, etc.
4. Letters of Support
5. Documentation of Readiness
6. Full legal description of project property
7. Signed Landowner Certification and Inspection Consent

LANDOWNER CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION CONSENT

To the best of my knowledge, the information in this application is true and complete. I agree to allow members of the USDA Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands, or their designee's to conduct inspections, appraisals, surveys, data collection, or other permitted activities on my property at a mutually agreeable time for the purposes of this application and that I shall be notified in advance of all such inspections.

I understand that the purpose of the Idaho Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to protect environmentally important forest areas and the public values they provide from the threat of conversion to non-forest uses. I understand that participation in the Forest Legacy Program is entirely voluntary and that a conservation easement will not be purchased if negotiations do not reach an amicable agreement or if the property does not meet the needs or qualifications of Idaho's Forest Legacy Program. The State of Idaho will only purchase conservation easements from willing sellers. I have read and understand the terms in the *Call for FFY2016 Project Applications*. With those understandings, I submit this application for consideration for the Forest Legacy Program.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Landowner or Authorized Signature(s)

Title

Date